

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is set forth below. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for generating a request for quote (RFQ), (RFQ) engine, comprising:

an RFQ engine comprising one or more components, wherein the one or more components are organized logically into one or more tiers, the RFQ engine comprising:

a data and metrics tier designer operable to generate, in response to input from a user, a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model;

a state transition tier designer operable to generate, in response to input from the user, a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model; and

a workflow tier designer operable to generate, in response to input from the user, a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model; and

wherein the RFQ engine further comprises an execution engine operable to execute the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by the data and metrics designer, tier, the state transition model generated by the state transition designer, tier, and the user interface workflow generated by the workflow designer, tier, the RFQ template being executed to generate an RFQ.

2-4. **(Canceled)**

5. **(Currently Amended)** The system RFQ engine of Claim 1, wherein the state transition model defines a sequence of steps performed in association with the generation of the RFQ by an originating entity and a response to the generated RFQ by one or more responding entities.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The system RFQ engine of Claim 5, wherein the state transition model defines a series of steps performed during a negotiation between the originating entity and the responding entities.

7-9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** A method for generating a request for quote (RFQ), comprising:

- using a data and metrics designer, generating a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model and input from a user;
- using a state transition designer, generating a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model and input from the user;
- using a workflow designer, generating a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model and input from the user; and
- using an execution engine, executing the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by the data and metrics designer, the state transition model generated by the state transition designer, and the user interface workflow generated by the workflow designer, the RFQ template being executed to generate an RFQ.

11-13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Original)** The method of Claim 10, wherein the state transition model defines a sequence of steps performed in association with the generation of the RFQ by an originating entity and a response to the generated RFQ by one or more responding entities.

15. **(Original)** The method of Claim 14, wherein the state transition model defines a series of steps performed during a negotiation between the originating entity and the responding entities.

16-18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Original)** Software for generating a request for quote (RFQ), the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and, when executed, operable to:

generate a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model and input from a user;

generate a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model and input from the user;

generate a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model and input from the user; and

execute the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by the data and metrics designer, the state transition model generated by the state transition designer, and the user interface workflow generated by the workflow designer, the RFQ template being executed to generate an RFQ.

20-22. **(Canceled)**

23. **(Original)** The software of Claim 19, wherein the state transition model defines a sequence of steps performed in association with the generation of the RFQ by an originating entity and a response to the generated RFQ by one or more responding entities.

24. **(Original)** The software of Claim 23, wherein the state transition model defines a series of steps performed during a negotiation between the originating entity and the responding entities.

25-27. **(Canceled)**

28. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for generating a request for quote (RFQ), comprising:

an RFQ engine comprising one or more components, wherein the one or more components are organized logically into one or more tiers, the RFQ engine comprising:

means for generating a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model and input from a user;

means for generating a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model and input from the user; and

means for generating a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model and input from the user; ~~and~~

wherein the RFQ engine further comprises means for executing the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by ~~the~~ a data and metrics designer, tier, the state transition model generated by ~~the~~ a state transition designer, tier, and the user interface workflow generated by ~~the~~ a workflow designer, tier, the RFQ template being executed to generate an RFQ.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented system for generating a request for quote (RFQ), (RFQ) engine, comprising:

an RFQ engine comprising one or more components, wherein the one or more components are organized logically into one or more tiers, the RFQ engine comprising:

a data and metrics tier designer operable to generate, in response to input from an entity originating an RFQ, a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model;

a state transition tier designer operable to generate, in response to input from the originating entity, a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model; and

a workflow tier designer operable to generate, in response to input from the originating entity, a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model; and

wherein the RFQ engine further comprises an execution engine operable to execute the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by the data and metrics ~~designer~~, tier, the state transition model generated by the state transition ~~designer~~, tier, and the user interface workflow generated by the workflow ~~designer~~, tier, the RFQ template being executed to generate the RFQ;

the data and metrics model defining data to be collected from the originating entity and one or more entities responding to the RFQ, the data and metrics model further defining one or more metrics used to evaluate at least a portion of the collected data;

the state transition model defining a sequence of steps performed during a negotiation between the originating entity and the responding entities relating to the RFQ;

the user interface workflow defining a sequence of user interfaces presented to the originating and responding entities in association with the generation of and response to the RFQ.

30. **(Original)** A method for generating a request for quote (RFQ), comprising:

- using a data and metrics designer, generating a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model and input from an entity originating an RFQ;
- using a state transition designer, generating a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model and input from the originating entity;
- using a workflow designer, generating a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model and input from the originating entity; and
- using an execution engine, executing the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by the data and metrics designer, the state transition model generated by the state transition designer, and the user interface workflow generated by the workflow designer, the RFQ template being executed to generate an RFQ;

the data and metrics model defining data to be collected from the originating entity and one or more entities responding to the RFQ, the data and metrics model further defining one or more metrics used to evaluate at least a portion of the collected data;

the state transition model defining a sequence of steps performed during a negotiation between the originating entity and the responding entities relating to the RFQ;

the user interface workflow defining a sequence of user interfaces presented to the originating and responding entities in association with the generation of and response to the RFQ.

31. **(Original)** Software for generating a request for quote (RFQ), the software embodied in a computer-readable medium and, when executed, operable to:

generate a data and metrics model for an RFQ template using a data and metrics meta-model and input from an entity originating an RFQ;

generate a state transition model for the RFQ template using a state transition meta-model and input from the originating entity;

generate a user interface workflow for the RFQ template using a workflow meta-model and input from the originating entity; and

execute the RFQ template comprising the data and metrics model generated by the data and metrics designer, the state transition model generated by the state transition designer, and the user interface workflow generated by the workflow designer, the RFQ template being executed to generate an RFQ;

the data and metrics model defining data to be collected from the originating entity and one or more entities responding to the RFQ, the data and metrics model further defining one or more metrics used to evaluate at least a portion of the collected data;

the state transition model defining a sequence of steps performed during a negotiation between the originating entity and the responding entities relating to the RFQ;

the user interface workflow defining a sequence of user interfaces presented to the originating and responding entities in association with the generation of and response to the RFQ.